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ACTION MEMORANDUM

TO: The Secretary
FROM: H - Richard Fairbanks
SUBJECT: Letter to Congressman Lantos on Raoul Wallenberg
ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether to sign the attached letter to Congressman Tom Lantos (D-Cal).

ESSENTIAL FACTORS

At a joint session of the Human Rights and the Europe/Middle East Subcommittees of the HFAC on June 4, Congressman Tom Lantos' legislation conferring honorary U.S. citizenship on Raoul Wallenberg was unanimously reported to the full committee after dramatic, emotional testimony in its favor by Senator Pell (D-RI), Rep. Fenwick (R-NJ), Jack Kemp (R-NY), Lantos and his wife, and, finally, the sister of Raoul Wallenberg. This, and similar legislation before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, should easily pass.

The Department's response to the request for Executive Branch comments (Tab 2) was entirely favorable in tone. The response did note the limited international legal effects of the bill in order to prevent possible misapprehensions on that score. At the same time, it pointed out the worthiness of Wallenberg's efforts, the symbolic political impact of the legislation, and the continuing USG commitment to try to clarify Wallenberg's fate. Nonetheless, there reportedly is some doubt among the Subcommittee as to just how firmly the Administration supports the Lantos initiative. To make clear the full extent of that support, we recommend that you write directly to Lantos expressing support for his efforts and the legislation.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the attached letter to Congressman Lantos.

Attachment:

- Tab 1: Suggested letter to Congressman Lantos.
- Tab 2: Department's response to the request.

Drafted: H:TLTowell:stmcp:#1238A:06/05/81:x21246

Clearances: EUR/SOV - Mr. Goodman
Mr. German
EUR/NE - Mr. Reams
EUR - Ambassador Eagleburger
L - Mr. McGovern
CA - Mr. Goetz

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IS/FPC/CDR
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
CLASSIFY as
DOWNGRADE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RELEASE
DECLASSIFY
EXCISE
DECLASSIFY
DENY
IN PART
DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions

Date: 12/12/93